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REMARKS

Status Summary

In this amendment, no claims are canceled and claims 38-44 are added. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-12 and 14-44 will be pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 and 14-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chen et al., "Totally Ordered Gigabyte Multicasting," IEEE, 1997 (hereinafter, "Chen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,139 to Finan et al. (hereinafter, "Finan"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 7, 12, 16, 18, 24, and 26 each recite that ticket voucher grant messages are issued in response to ticket voucher request messages at a rate based on available bandwidth of an outbound signaling link. For example, when an on-hold linkset becomes available, rather than flooding the card associated with the newly available linkset with messages that are queued by the inbound card to be sent over the linkset, the subject matter of these claims controls the flow of messages to the card associated with the outbound linkset based on the bandwidth, i.e., the number of messages that a signaling link in the outbound linkset is capable of sending within a time period.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Chen or Finan of issuing ticket voucher grant messages in response to ticket voucher request messages at a rate based on outbound signaling link bandwidth. Chen is directed to a protocol referred to

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as the quick ring multicast protocol (QRMP) for ensuring ordered delivery of messages to members of a multicast group. Rather than issuing ticket voucher grants at a rate based on outbound signaling link bandwidth, Chen teaches that tickets are multicast to reserve buffers at intended destinations of a packet. For example, Chen states:

Each sender with a packet (e.g., 200 bytes in size) to multicast first multicasts a ticket (10 bytes) to reserve buffers at all of the intended destinations on the ring. The ticket contains a bit map with a bit set for each of the destinations. Each destination, depending on buffer availability, reserves a buffer for the packet and unsets its bit in the ticket. When the ticket returns to the source with all of the bits unset, buffer space is guaranteed at the destinations and the source can then multicast the packet. (Emphasis added.) (See page 231, column 2, lines 7-17 of Chen.)

The fact that Chen teaches reserving buffers at destinations based on buffer availability at the destinations cannot possibly teach or suggest issuing ticket voucher grant messages at a rate based on available outbound signaling link bandwidth because the nodes that reserve the buffers are the intended destinations of the packets and therefore do not forward the packets over outbound signaling links. Even the bridge nodes of Chen, which forward packets between rings, do not issue ticket voucher grant messages at a rate based on available outbound signaling link bandwidth. Rather, a bridge node returns a ticket with all of its bits unset when all of the destinations in rings below the bridge node have indicated that they have buffer space for receiving the multicast packet. (See page 232, column 2, lines 40-51 of Chen.) Thus, the bridge nodes of Chen, like the destination nodes of Chen, return tickets based on destination buffer space availability, rather than outbound signaling link bandwidth availability.

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Accordingly, Chen fails to teach or suggest issuing ticket voucher grant messages at a rate based on available bandwidth of outbound signaling links as claimed.

Finan likewise fails to teach or suggest issuing ticket voucher grants at a rate based on available outbound signaling link bandwidth as claimed. Finan is directed to an optical fiber ring communication system. There is no disclosure of any ticket voucher request or grant messages. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that for this reason alone, the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Chen in view of Finan should be withdrawn.

Moreover, with regard to claims 27-30, which respectfully recite receiving call signaling messages from an SSP, an STP, an SCP, and a media gateway, the Office Action indicates that column 2, lines 52-67 of Finan disclose receiving call signaling messages from each of these nodes. Column 2, lines 52-67 of Finan state as follows:

The link multiplexers 106 perform numerous functions: forwarding signals from one optical fiber segment to the next, routing signals from the optical fiber cables to client devices or communication lines, and routing signals to the optical fiber cables from client devices or communication lines. The link multiplexers 106 also combine signals from multiple sources using time division and wavelength division techniques so as to transmit them over the fiber optic cables 102.

The link multiplexer 106 at each node 104 is typically coupled to other devices or communication lines via a switch fabric 108. The switch 108 connects various devices and communication channels to the host (or client) side ports of the link multiplexer. The switches 108 are generally conventional switching devices and fabrics, such as time division multiplexed busses, and in some circumstances are not needed, and are therefore not described further in this document.

The above-quoted passage from Finan describes fiber optic link multiplexers 106, fiber optic nodes 104, and switch fabric 108. Nowhere does the above-quoted passage from Finan indicate that any of the nodes is an SSP, an SCP, an STP, or a media gateway.

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The only examples of nodes 104-1 given in Finan are: a node coupled to a local area network (LAN) (see column 3, lines 3-4 of Finan), a node that provides an Internet connection to a network via a router (see column 3, lines 10-11 of Finan), and a node that contains a disk farm (see line 3, lines 14-16 of Finan). Since none of these examples teaches or even remotely suggests an SCP, an SSP, an STP, or a media gateway, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 27-30 as unpatentable over Chen in view of Finan should be withdrawn for this additional reason.

New Claims

New claims 38-44 are added. Support for new claims 38-44 appears, for example, on page 15, line 25 through page 16, line 25 of the present specification. Claims 38-44 are believed to be patentable over the documents cited in the Official Action for the same reasons stated above with regard to the corresponding independent claims in addition to the elements recited in these claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully

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requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Office Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

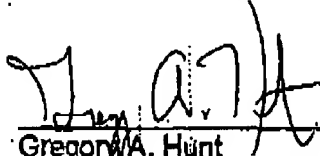
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 27, 2006

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